HIS MAJESTIES Message

TO

Both Houses of Parliament,

April 28. 1642.

Concerning his Refusall to passe the Bill for the Militia.

LONDON:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
MDCXLII.

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Concerning His Refusall to passe the BILL for the MILITIA.

WE have with great deliberation and patience weighed and considered (it concerning us much, to weigh the consequences of every Law before we passe it) your Bill lately sent to us for the setting of the Militia, and though it hath not been usuall to give any reason for Our refusall to passe any Bill, (it being absolutely in Our power to passe, or not passe any Act sent unto us by you, if We conceive it prejudiciall to Our Self, or inconvenient for Our Subjects, for whom we are trusted, and must one day give an account) Yet in this businesse of the Militia, which being misunderstood amongst Our good Subjects, hath been used as an Argument, as if We were not vigilant enough for the Publike safety: And lest we should be thought lesse constant in Our Resolutions, and this Bill to be the same we sent unto you; We have thought fit to give you, and all the world particular satisfaction why we cannot, ought not, must not passe this Bill, being the first Publike Bill, to Our remembrance, We have re-

fused this Parliament; And therefore We must complain, That having expressed Our Self so clearly and particularly to you in this point, you should presse any thing upon Us, which you could not but foresee that We must refuse, except We departed from those Resolutions, grounded upon so much reason, We had so earnestly before acquainted you with, and against which you have not given one Argument to satisfie Our Judgement.

We are pleased that you have declined the unwarrantable course of your Ordinance (to the which We are confident Our good Subjects would never have yeelded consent) and chosen this onely right way of imposing on Our People, which We would have allowed, but for the reason hereafter mentioned.

We refused to consent to your Ordinance, as to other things, so for that the power was put into the persons nominated therein by direction of both Houses of Parliament, excluding Us from any Power in the Disposition or Execution of it together with you. We then advised you for many reasons that a Bill should be prepared, and after in Our answer of the twenty six of March last to the Petition of both Houses, We told you if such a Bill should be prepared with that due regard to Us, and care of Our people in the limitation of the Power and other Circumstances, We should recede from nothing We formerly expressed. What passed (enough to have discouraged Us from being further Sollicitous in that Argument) after Our full and gracious Answers, We are content to forget. When We resolved of Our Journey into

to Ireland (so that by reason of Our absence there might be no want of setling that Power, besides complying with your fears) We sent, together with a Message of that Our purpose, a Bill for the setling that Power for a year, hoping in that time to return to you, and being sure that in much lesse time you might do the busines for which you seemed at first to desire this, which was, That you might securely consider Our Message of the 20th of January last. By that Bill We consented to those names you proposed in your Ordinance, and in the limitation of the Power provided that Our Self should not be able to execute any thing but by your advice, and when We should be out of the Kingdom, the sole Execution to be in you; with many other things of so arbitrary and uncircumscribed a Power, that We should not have consented to, but with reference to the absence of Our own Person out of the Kingdom, and thought it the more sufferable in respect the time was but for a year. Whether this be the Bill you have now sent Us to passe, let all the world judge.

You have by this Bill now tendred to Us, (without taking notice of Us) put the power of the whole Kingdom, The Life and Liberties of the Subjects of all degrees and qualities, into the hands of particular men for two yeers. Can you imagine We will trust such an absolute Power in the hands of particular persons, which We refused to commit to both Houses of Parliament? Nay, is not the Power it self too absolute, too unlimited to be committed into any private hands? Hath not Sir John Hothams high Insolencie shew-

ed this what We may expect from an exorbitant Legall Power, when he, by a Power not warranted by Law, dares venture upon a Treasonable disobedience: But We would willingly know (and indeed such an account in ordinary Civility We might have expected) why We are by this Act absolutely excluded from any Power or Authority in the execution of this Militia. Sure your fears and Jealousies are not of such a nature, as are capable of no other remedy, then by leaving us no Power in a point of the greatest importance, in which God and the Law hath trusted us solely, and which We were contented to share with you by Our Bill, by putting it and a greater into the hands of particular Subjects. What would all Christian Princes think of this, after We had passed such a Bill? How would they value Our Soveraignty? And yet sure Our Reputation with Forraign Princes, is some ground of your security. Nay, We are confident by that time you have throughly considered the possible consequence of the Bill upon your selves, and the rest of Our good Subjects, you and they will give us thanks for not consenting to it, finding their condition (had it passed) not to have been so pleasing unto them. We hope this Animadversion will be no breach of your Priviledges in this throng of Businesse, and Distemper of Affections: Tis possible, second thoughts may present somewhat to your considerations which escaped you before.

We passed this Parliament at your entreaty a Bill concerning the Captives at Algier, and waved many Objections of Our own to the contrary,

upon

upon Information that the Business had been many Moneths considered by you; whether it prove suitable to your intentions, or whether you have not by some private Orders suspended that Act of Parliament, upon view of the mistakings, you best know: As likewise what other great Alterations you have made in other Bills passed this Sessions. We cannot passe over the putting their names out of this Bill whom before you recommended to Us in your Ordinance, it seems not thinking fit to trust those who would obey no Guide but the Law of the Land (we imagine you would not wish We should in Our estimation of others follow that your Rule) and the leaving out by speciall provision the present Lord Major of London, as a person in your disfavour; whereas We must tell you, his Demeanour hath been such, that the City, and the whole Kingdom is beholding to him for his Example.

To conclude, We do not finde Our self possessed of such an excesse of power, that it is fit to transferre, or consent it should be in other persons (as is directed by this Bill) and therefore We shall rely upon that Royall Right and Jurisdiction which God and the Law hath given Us for the suppressing of Rebellion, and resisting Forreign Invasion, which hath preserved this Kingdom in the time of all Our Ancestours, and which We doubt not, but We shall be able to Execute; And not more for Our own Honour and Right, then for the Liberty and Safety of Our People, We cannot consent to passe this Bill.

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